(c) The following measures have been taken/are being taken by the Government to ensure maximum availability of generation capacity:-

- Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.
- Utilization of unutilized capacity of gas based stations on liquid fuel.
- Tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.
- Import of coal to bridge the gap between the requirement of coal and its availability from the domestic sources.

Rural electrification

†2548. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether previous Government had set a target to provide electricity to all by 2009 under its Common Minimum Programme;

(b) if so, whether that target is about to be achieved;

(c) the number of villages where electrification under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana was completed during the last five years; and

(d) the number of villages deprived of electricity along with the future action plan. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the previous Government, it was envisaged to provide access to electricity to the rural household in five years.

(b) and (c) As on 01.07.2009, 62,520 unelectrified villages have been electrified and connections to 72,72,223 rural households including 62,52,890 BPL households have been released under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

(d) The projects covering 118146 un/de-electrified villages have been sanctioned under RGGVY. As on 01.07.2009, the works in 62527 un/de-electrified villages have been reportedly completed. The remaining villages to be covered under the sanctioned projects are likely to be electrified by the end of XI Five Year Plan.

Power generation capacity

2549.SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the per cent generation capacity (in MW) from Central, State, Private and Nuclear Sectors upto February, 2008;

(b) the capacity addition in MW during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) the number of coal linkages/blocks available for coal based plants?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The installed generating capacity in the Central, State and Private Sector as on 29th February, 2008 was approximately 33.6%. 52.6% and 13.8% respectively.

(b) The generation capacity aggregating 15,325 MW has been added during the IIth Plan as on 13th July, 2009.

(c) In respect of coal based power projects under construction for benefits during IIth Plan, 63 projects have been given coal linkage and 11 projects have been allocated coal blocks.

Hydro-electricity projects in North-Eastern States

2550.SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of power shortage in India;

(b) the potential for generation of hydroelectricity in the country, particularly in the North-Eastern States;

(c) the steps Government contemplates to harness this electric power in a time bound manner;

(d) the reasons for delay in completing the gas-based Palatana and Monarchak projects of Tripura; and

(e) how Government proposes to expedite these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) There is an overall shortage of power in the country both in terms of energy and peaking power. The shortages vary from State to State on month to month, day to day and hour to hour basis depending upon the demand and supply of power. The energy and peaking shortage in the country during 2009-10 (April to June, 2009) was 9.8 % and 12.3 % respectively.

(b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has estimated hydro potential in the country at 1,48,701 MW. This includes 58,971 MW of hydro capacity in North Eastern Region and 4,286 MW in the State of Sikkim.

(c) Government has taken policy initiatives and measures to promote development of hydro power in the country including the National Electricity Policy announced in February, 2005. The Hydro Power Policy has been revised in 2008 and it *inter-alia* provides level playing field to private developers, recovery of additional costs through merchant sale upto a maximum of 40% of saleable energy, 100 units of electricity per months to each project affected family for 10 years after commercial operation of the project, additional 1% free power from the project for a local area development fund, etc. The revised Mega Power Projects Policy provides for lower qualifying capacity of 350 MW (from 500 MW) in respect of hydro power plants located in Jammu & Kashmir,